

***In the Abstract:***

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

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Lack of balance of a crank mechanism, which reciprocates a ledger having one or more guides for one or more cigarette rods or filter rods each issuing from a maker and being subdivided into a row of cigarettes or filter mouthpieces, is at least partially counteracted by at least two counterpoises one of which orbits about the axis of the crank mechanism in a first direction and the other of which orbits, in a second direction counter to the first direction, about a second axis laterally offset relative to the axis of the crank mechanism. A third counterpoise can be mounted for orbital movement about the axis of the crank mechanism and, if utilized, is angularly offset relative to the first counterpoise. The prime mover for the crank mechanism orbits the first and third counterpoises in the first direction, and the second counterpoise in the second direction.

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